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PRESS RELEASE AND 5 DEMANDS: MIDDLEBURY LAUNCHES GAZA SOLIDARITY ENCAMPMENT

In solidarity with the People of Palestine

Middlebury, Vermont, April 28, 2024

As of 7:15 am on April 28th, Middlebury College students launched their Gaza Solidarity Encampment on the **McCullough Lawn** in solidarity with the people of Palestine, joining thousands of students across the country in demanding that our institutions divest from Israel, and that Israel immediately end its genocidal campaign in Gaza. The students of Middlebury College are rising up alongside campuses across the country to show university leadership and trustees that we demand no rest until divest.

The demands of Middlebury students build on the work of the Middlebury Energy 2028 divestment campaign and echo the demands of students across the country. Our demands of the administration are:

1. **Divestment & Financial Transparency**: Divest the Middlebury endowment of all holdings in companies that profit from or engage in Israel's ongoing military campaign, occupation, and apartheid policies. Commit to full financial transparency on all its current and future investments.
2. **Freedom of Expression & Protester Amnesty**: As part of Middlebury's commitment to free speech, enshrine in policy that faculty, students, and staff are able to freely express support for Palestinian liberation without fear of institutional retaliation. Extend full amnesty to all protesters who have expressed themselves on Palestinian liberation. Commit to maintaining the employment of all college employees involved in pro-Palestinian political expression.
3. **Academic & Cultural Boycott**: End recruitment of unvetted professors through the Israel Institute. Refrain from any form of academic or cultural association with Israeli institutions and businesses, in line with the Palestinian Campaign for the Academic and Cultural Boycott of Israel. This boycott is of institutions, not individuals.
4. **Palestinian Affiliations**: Cultivate direct affiliations with Palestinian academic and cultural institutions without requiring them to partner with Israeli counterparts. Just like with students from other war-torn areas, commit to helping displaced Gazan students study at Middlebury.
5. **End the Silence**: End Middlebury College's silence by releasing a public statement calling for an immediate and permanent ceasefire in Gaza and condemning Israel's genocidal campaign against the Palestinian people.